

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/002,212
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. A8166

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising:
an inner base section that is generally cup-shaped and an outer section that annularly corresponds to said inner section, and is removable from said inner section; wherein said inner base section comprises an annular retention wall to hold fluid within a volume of said inner base section, at least one flow hole disposed in said annular retention wall to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner base section, and standoff sections that position said outer section in relation to said inner base section; and
said outer section is comprised of an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular retention wall of said inner base section,
wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment, said first position being when said outer section and said inner section are not in contact and said at least one flow hole is uncovered by said annular wall, and said second position being when said outer section and said inner section are in contact with each other, said standoffs retain said outer section in contact with said inner base section and said annular wall closes off said at least one flow hole.

2-4. (*Cancelled*).

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5. (*Withdrawn*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising an inner holding section that is generally cup-shaped and an outer retaining section that annularly corresponds to said inner section, and is rotatable around a common axis with said inner holding section; wherein said inner holding section comprises a circular floor and annular wall to retain fluid within a volume of said inner holding section, and at least one flow hole in said annular wall to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner holding section; and said outer retaining section comprises an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular wall of said inner holding section, said annular wall having at least one flow hole to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner holding section.

6. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 5, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

7. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 6, wherein said first position is provided when said outer retaining section is rotated about said inner holding section so as to not allow any of said flow holes to communicate with each other.

8. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 6, wherein said second position is provided when said outer retaining section is rotated about said inner holding section so as to allow said flow holes to communicate with each other.

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9. (*Withdrawn*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising a holding section that is generally cup-shaped, wherein said holding section comprises:

a circular floor and an annular wall to hold fluid within a volume of said holding section, and at least one flow hole provided in said floor to allow fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said holding section;

at least one plug seal to alternatively close or open said flow hole; and

at least one resilient member to return said plug seal to a closed position.

10. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 9, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

11. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 10, wherein said first position is provided by a state in which no pressure is present in said holder, which allows said plug seal to remain in a seated position in said flow hole.

12. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 10, wherein said second position is provided by a state in which pressure is present in said holder, the pressure causes said plug seal to move to an unseated position, the unseated position unseals said flow hole and allows fluid to flow through said flow hole, said resilient member will return said plug seal to the seated position and seal said flow hole when pressure on said holder is removed.

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13. (*Withdrawn*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising a holding section that is generally cup-shaped; wherein

said holding section comprises a circular floor and an annular wall to hold fluid within a volume of said holding section, and at least one plug seal and flow hole, said flow hole provided to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said holding section;

said plug seal comprises a seal portion and a plug actuating portion, said plug actuating portion extends vertically downward from said holder and contacts any opposing surface prior to said holder.

14. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 13, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment.

15. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 14, wherein said first position is provided by a state in which said holder is not resting on any opposing surface, allowing said plug seal to remain in a seated position in said flow hole.

16. (*Withdrawn*) A holder as described in claim 14, wherein said second position is provided by a state in which said holder is resting on any opposing surface, causing said plug seal to be pushed upward relative to said flow hole by the weight of said holder, said plug seal pushed upward unseals said flow hole and allows fluid to flow through said hole, said plug seal

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returning to a position that seals said flow hole when said holder is removed from said opposing surface.

17. (*Currently Amended*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising:

an inner base section and an outer section that annularly corresponds to said inner base section, and is removable from said inner base section; wherein

said inner base section comprises an annular retention wall extending therefrom, and at least one flow hole disposed in said annular retention wall; and

said outer section comprises an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular retention wall of said inner base section, wherein said holder has a first position that allows fluid flow, and a second position to provide fluid containment, said first position being when said outer section and said inner section are not in contact and said at least one flow hole is uncovered by said annular wall, and said second position being when said outer section and said inner section are in contact with each other and said annular wall closes off said at least one flow hole.

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18. (*Withdrawn*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising an inner holding section and an outer retaining section that annularly corresponds to said inner holding section, and is rotatable around a common axis with said inner holding section; wherein

said inner holding section comprises a circular floor, an annular wall, and at least one flow hole in said annular wall; and

said outer retaining section comprises an annular wall having a slightly larger diameter than said annular wall of said inner holding section, said annular wall of said outer retaining section having at least one flow hole.

19. (*Withdrawn*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising a holding section, wherein said holding section comprises:

a circular floor, an annular wall which extends from said floor, and at least one flow hole in said floor;

at least one plug seal in said flow hole; and

at least one resilient member in contact with said plug seal.

20. (*Withdrawn*) A holder for drying specimens, comprising:

a holding section which includes a circular floor, an annular wall which extends from said floor, and at least one flow hole in said floor; and

at least one plug seal comprising a seal portion and a plug actuating portion, said plug actuating portion extending vertically downward from said holder.

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21. (*Cancelled*).

22. (*New*) A holder as claimed in claim 1, wherein said outer section is rotatable around a common axis with said inner base section and said outer section comprises at least one flow hole to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner base section, said holder further comprising a third position that allows fluid flow, and a fourth position to provide fluid containment, said third position being when said outer section is rotated about said inner base section so as to not allow any of said flow holes to communicate with each other, and said fourth position being when said outer section is rotated about said inner base section so as to allow said flow holes to communicate with each other.

23. (*New*) A holder as claimed in claim 17, wherein said outer section is rotatable around a common axis with said inner base section and said outer section comprises at least one flow hole to allow the fluid to flow into and out of the volume of said inner base section, said holder further comprising a third position that allows fluid flow, and a fourth position to provide fluid containment, said third position being when said outer section is rotated about said inner base section so as to not allow any of said flow holes to communicate with each other, and said fourth position being when said outer section is rotated about said inner base section so as to allow said flow holes to communicate with each other.